

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING PRECISE INCISIONS IN BODY VESSELS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and apparatus employed in surgery involving making precise incisions through body vessel walls, particularly coronary arteries. A body vessel cutting instrument comprises an elongated instrument shaft extending between a shaft proximal end adapted to be manipulated outside the patient's body and a shaft distal end and having a shaft axis and first and second cutting blades supported at the shaft distal end. The first cutting blade extends substantially orthogonally or laterally to the shaft axis and has a first cutting edge extending along a trailing side, a cutting tip at the first cutting blade free end, and an atraumatic blunt surface along the leading side. The second cutting blade has a second cutting edge extending along a leading side, whereby the first and second cutting edges face one another and are brought together to slit a vessel wall.